WENDELL POST

50¢

Vol. XI No. 4
Oct./Nov. 1988

ENDANGERED TOWNSCAPE

The century-old tree in the drawing above that graces the common in front of Town hall is targeted to be cut down.

It's part of a plan moving rapidly into effect to cut several trees and expand parking near Town hall, including new pavement on the south end of the common.

Some feel the tree should be given help, not cut. "Take away the pavement around it and fertilize it at the drip line," recommended Mason Phelps. "Even if it can't be saved, plant another one and protect it with a fence," urged another observer. "It's a beautiful, softening touch in front of Town hall. Some remarked on the irony that car exhaust may have sickened the tree and cars are the reason given for cutting it down.

A group objecting to the plan is circulating a petition. Contact Prudy Smith or Rosie Heidkamp.

Jonathan von Ranson

The 'Real' Wendell Was Hard to Find

It took four elections, two petitions for a special Town meeting, and a resignation from the board of selectmen, but voters finally acceded Sept. 12 to the budget originally passed in annual Town meeting in June.

The disarray over the budget began in late winter with school requests that were alarmingly higher, around 50%. It carried through to a phantom annual Town meeting in May, called strictly for the legalistic purpose of adjourning it to June when the budget would be in shape to present to the voters. There the budget was passed nearly unanimously. But storm warnings went up again when the voters, in a Proposition 2½ override election in June, turned down the request to lift the levy limit $104,000, or 25%. ten times the statutory limit of 2½%.

Ordinarily, that might have forced the Town back to Town meeting. But Wendell's process was about a month behind most towns this year, and the selectboard, following the example of other towns nearby, resubmitted the question to voters in July exactly as originally phrased. It let townspeople know it considered the increase essential and the budget a responsible one. Voters again said no.

Then a discovery was made: debt repayment of the fire department's new cab and chassis had been entered twice by mistake. Correcting that brought the override amount down to $84,000. The question was resubmitted to the voters a third time in August and was defeated a third time.

By now it seemed two constituencies divided the Town nearly in half: the citizens who come out and question the officials, consider and debate things a bit, and decide in the open forum of Town meeting...and those who make their position known only in the anonymity and queit of a private conversation or voting booth. The latter are a force for fiscal conservatism.

This idea received support in the next chapter. A special Town meeting was scheduled on the second of two petitions organized by Anne Zak and David Wilder...but before it could be held in early September the selectboard scheduled a fourth override vote, which fell just two days before the special Town meeting. In the tensions and recriminations of this phase, Selectman Jim Slavas resigned (see story elsewhere).

The amount of override requested was lower--$60,000--because by now state reimbursement figures were known and they were higher than projected. (They usually are, and the difference is normally used to produce the surplus that gets applied to next year's budget). This time, the override passed, 131-110. This time another vote was not scheduled!

Next year's budget process is about to begin, and finance officials project an equally great rise for next year, now only seven months away. Because of the strains of the past few months, the tax rate has been held low and the budget's balance is perhaps teeterier than usual. Long-delayed requests for departmental increases will probably be made again, now that the dam of Prop. 2½ has been breached. Budget-making time is likely to be just as dramatic--and traumatic--unless the finance committee gets more tight-fisted or the quiet constituency participates more fully in Town meetings. Officials say it is increasingly doubtful that state reimbursements will be balancing Wendell's budget in the years ahead as they have in the past.

Jonathan von Ranson

IMPORTANT
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

NATIONAL ELECTION Nov. 8, 7am - 8pm

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Nov. 22, 7:30pm

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION

Nov. 28 Check posting placesfor time

Slavas Resigns

Jim Slavas, a member of the Selectboard for the past seven years, resigned last month. Jim's husky, intense form bent over the front table at town meetings, his energetic flow of words and sweeping gestures have become familiar over the years, even comfortable. The last meeting--the first since his resignation--seemed to have a hole in it; something, you felt, was missing. When he rose from the floor to speak his piece--that hole was filled.

Jim came to town in 1971, a charter member of that first small wave of "new people" that was to become a flood during the following ten years and permanently change the character of the town. There was, of course, a story to go with his arrival;

When he and Phyllis bought the land they now live on, he thought he had better go and get a building permit before they actually started to build anything. The building Inspector at that time was a gentleman by the name of Henshaw. Mr. Henshaw owned the farm then a working dairy farm--in the center of town on the land next door to new Fire Station/Town Garage.

When Jim asked Mr. Henshaw about a permit, Mr. Henshaw gave him the classic Wendell answer that was to startle most newcomers as they prepared to build their homes. No, he said, you only need a building permit if you are going to apply for a septic permit, and since we don't do septic permits, there wasn't much point in getting a building permit.

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***Post policy is that every article be signed. We regret author credit omissions where authorship unknown.

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The Wendell Post in desperate need of typists. Be a part of The Wendell News Team.

contact Eileen 4-3223

Dear Editor,

Few people in town would argue that animals don't have rights, but many of us are opposed to Referendum Question #3. That's because we don't believe the true impact of Question #3 would be more humane treatment of animals.

The arguments for the question have led us to believe that the focus of the law is large, mass-production type farms that treat animals like they're already dead. But if we look at the actual law carefully, we see that it will apply to any farm that produces more than $500 in produce value in a year. This is not a mass-production operation at all, but would include the smallest of family farms--for instance a farm that raised one cow per year.

There are many vegetarians in Massachusetts, and in Wendell. Personally, I share many vegetarian concepts, and certainly support the rights of vegetarians to live their lives and express their opinions. However, non-vegetarians have rights also, and presumably these rights include the right to slaughter animals using humane methods, for human consumption.

Is it possible that Question #3 questions these rights of non-vegetarians? It certainly goes way beyond regulation of mass-production techniques of agribusiness. In fact agribusiness is not even fighting this question--perhaps because they know they could get around the law if they have to, using high power legal techniques that they have used with such effective results in the past.

Let's not let any small special interest group play with broad rights that have been established over the centuries. This law does not lay down any specific guidelines for the humane treatment of animals, but leaves the details up to a board, at least two members of which will come from special interest groups whose ideas we know very little about. We may need some animal rights rules, but Question #3 is an unfair and dangerous way to go about getting them. A NO vote on Question #3 is a vote for the family farm, and a vote for the rights of all farmers and consumers.

Sincerely, Daniel Keller

TO POLAND WITH LOVE!

A few years ago I requested the name of a poor family in Poland from a friend whose family still lives there. Since that time I've been corresponding and sending packages about four times a year. In return I receive frequent letters of overpowering gratitude and somewhat embarrassing praise. We have established a deep bond that transcends material limits.

Poland is a Communist country whose citizens are 95% Roman Catholic. Their faith is so intense that the Communists cannot destroy it. Their news is censored, and life is progressively more difficult with rising prices and increasing scarcity of most things. It is a "norm" now to stand in long lines for hours for groceries, appliances and clothes. Many people are learning to do without. This is why my "adopted" family is so grateful. They say that because of our relationship they know Americans are not the "vicious monsters" propagandized by their government.

I asked my adopted family to send me names of other poor families, especially with children so that maybe others could help too. If you would like to be involved, call me at (413) 367-2300 or write: 361 Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351.

Sincerely, Bertha (Diemand) Petruski

To the Readers:

Jonathan and I work very hard to create the life which we hope will sustain us in our old age in Wendell. We like Wendell. I hope that, since we try to decrease both our needs and therefore our income every year, we will be able to meet the increasing taxes on our beautiful woodland homestead. It will be a lot to leave to the deer, (or the developers), if we ever have to leave.

Jonathan von Ranson is not anti-education; he is looking past those near-future school years to the precarious future we seem to be using up on credit.

We have trusted the democratic process. Jonathan, as Mike Idoine well knows, puts in many many hours of voluntary work on committees for this town--at present the Solid Waste Comm. and work for the Low-Impact Housing group. And in the past tireless hours of writing and legwork trying to keep Route 2 from destroying the integrity of our town and forest.

I was shocked at the Sept. 14th town meeting when townspeople and selectmen said in so many words that people who have strong opinions and ideas on changing the budget should go to all the committee meetings (school board, planning, etc.) or shut up. Ted Lewis even called the diligent work and efforts of Mason Phelps on a moderation of the huge budget increases stupid. Is this how we reward the volunteer efforts of our town citizens?

It is our committees' jobs to research and plan their departments and submit their ideas to the town. The townspeople have every right (and responsibility) to question, ammend, and accept or refuse those committee recommendations at town meeting.

I am ashamed of the Selectboard and the townspeople of Wendell.

Sincerely,
Susan DunLany

Beware of "Night Sticks"

This summer, a friend of mine gave my 2 sons Night (glow) Sticks. You 'snap' them and they glow in the dark for many hours. Fascinating. They reminded me of those wax drinks we got at the candy store as kids, so I cautioned my children NOT to put them in their mouths. For some reason I got bad vibes from these glow sticks as my cherubs clutched them in their sleep. I would ever so quietly (like the Grinch) slip them out of their hands and put them on their bureaus. Ah, the worries of motherhood. Don't ask me how it happened, but all but one of these chemical wonders had ah, disappeared.

Jesse was getting ready to go out the door and suddenly screamed, "My eye, the chemical is in my eye!! Luckily he is 6 and verbal and was forewarned of the chemical inside the stick. We FLUSHED and FLUSHED the water in and out of his eye - even into the tub - I was frantic - A NIGHTMARE! After 10 minutes of water in the eye his screams subsided. The staff at Franklin Medical Center urged us to come to the Emergency Room, where they were thorough and his cornea was not damaged. What if he had been younger? What if more of this chemical had gone into his eye or his mouth? I shudder at the thought. I urge you all to use these "Halloween Lights" with caution. I am thankful that we were lucky.

Mez Davis

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JOE BUCCI

Chief MDC forester Bruce Spencer of New Salem with the visible signs of a lack of respect for our forests: target practice.

Plight of Our Forests

"The trees are dying, and time is running out on us."

Bruce Spencer, Chief Metropolitan District Commission Forester for the Quabbin area, is not normally a man given to sweeping generalizations or theatrical gesture. He is not a doomsayer, not an alarmist. He is a quiet man, a careful man with facts, and when he made that statement it was more in sadness than in anger.

As we stood in a patch of Wendell's forest off Jennison Road, he shook his head and pointed at a stand of trees twenty or thirty yards away. "look at the crowns," he said, pointing to the tops of the trees. "That's what people should be looking at. Trees die from the top down."

The stand he pointed to, he said, was a good example of the various stages of trees, from lush foliage to bare branches, from a living, vibrant tree to a tree in the last throes of its shortened life.

What's killing them?

Everything.

"We're seeing insects, now--a lot of insects. Some people think the insects are doing the damage we see, but the fact is that the trees were already weak when the insect arrived." Insects are attracted to weaker trees, he said, trees that are already under stress and can't repel the infestation.

"We've always had leaf-eating insects in hardwoods," he said, but an indication of just how bad things are is "the pine-saw fly. For the first time, our softwoods are being attacked." Again, all he had to do was turn around and point--we didn't need to travel to find examples. Off to the left were pines bare of needles nearly to the top; the ground under the trees was covered with a blanket of deadbrown pine needles.

What weakened them?

Acid rain. Ground-water pollution. And ozone.

"Ozone is the worst," he said.

"Ozone? You mean, losing the ozone layer in the atmosphere is hurting trees?"

No, he meant the ozone that occurs naturally at ground level. As ozone levels rise, they interfere with what he called "the natural breathing of the tree", in effect poisoning the very air it breathes and disrupting the process--transforming carbon dioxide to oxygen--that produces the air we breathe.

"We haven't seen the test results yet, but we think this may have been the worst summer in years. Ozone levels that might be as high as 3 times the natural levels--"

He sounded worried.

No tree was safe, and the hardwoods were particulsrly vulnerable. Maple trees, as some have speculated recently, have been dying at such an alarming rate that they might become extinct. But in our area, one of the most endangered species of three was the oak.

"We lost an oak forest," he said.

The MDC had purchased a number of acres around Sibley Swamp, also off Jennison Road. They had marked the area--taken note of what could be found where--and them waited for the sale to finalized. That process took nearly a year, "and when we returned, all the oaks had died. In only one year--a single year--we lost a whole oak forest."

Oaks found in other parts of our forest are dying at accelerating rates, dying young er than they used to only twenty years ago. In the sixties, the life of an oak was expected to be 150 years plus; "We're seeing them die when they're only 80 or 100 years old..."

Wendell is about three-quarters State Forest land, and trees are so much a part of our daily background that we hardly notice them, but if what Spencer is saying is true, we'd better notice them because they might one day be gone.

"The pollution that's produced in New York and New Jersey goes into the atmosphere-mixes with clouds and wind, blows right up the coast and then gets dumped on us as acid rain. It's the same process that has already happened in Europe. The Germans have been studying this for twenty years--in fact, they've done all our work for us, they've laid it right out where anybody can see it--and everything they described then is happening to us now. So we know the future, we know what's going to happen because it has already happened to them, and we know that if we don't do something to stop the process our forests will die. They're dying right now--"

He told of a trip he had made to an area around a nickel smelter in Ontario. "Around the smelter there weren't any trees left at all, only ferns and grasses."

Is that our future?

"We can stop it," he said. Some of the small things that have been done the last few years have been able to bring back oak and maple in some areas. And certainly, the information is there; "We know what to do and we know how to do it."

Then why aren't we?

He sighed and rubbed his chin wearily. "Sometimes I think that if we ever figured out that what we were doing would make the system stop functioning on this one particular day in 1998, we wouldn't do anything about it until the day before. We think we've got lots of time, but the warning signs are everywhere.

"Time is running out."

-michael j. mcphee

Hydro-Geologic Study

This year a team from the University of Massachusetts began a comprehensive study of the water supplies of Wendell. Headed by geology Professor Ward Motts, with field work by graduate student, Tim Limbers, the study hopes to identify the water sources available to the town, and to anticipate possible threats to this water.

The first step of the study is to locate our aquifers, or underground water supplies. The team will then look for recharge areas which replenish the aquifers, and try to determine the rate at which the aquifers are replenished. They than look for stresses on the aquifer, or sources of pollution which may affect the quality of the water. "The bottom line," Professor Motts told us, "is to determine how we can protect water supplies for future generations."

How are aquifers located? Motts said that first a comprehensive survey is made of the existing wells in town - their location, type, and depth, and their rate of flow. This information is compared with data indicating the discharge of water into streams, and from this calculations can be made as to the size of aquifers. Further information can be derived from seismic studies of the geology under the ground. Motts says that although previous studies have identified the various kinds of bedrock present under Wendell, no work has been done on the qualities and locations of sand and gravel deposits - this information will be developed by this study. The team sends shock waves through the ground (not by exploding nuclear weapons, but with a ten pound hammer!) Other members of the team then listen to the sound with sensitive listening devices. This information leads to a determination of the quality and quanity of sand and gravel deposits.

This kind of work is painstaking and time consuming. Motts estimated that another full summer season of gathering data will be necessary. "We are hoping," he said, "that we"ll be able to complete the study and write it up by the fall of 1989."

Dan Keller

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ANCIENT HEBREW TRADITION

October 2
5:00-7:00 p.m.

"On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall keep the feast of the Lord seven days... You shall dwell in booths for seven days... that your generation may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord, your God."

Leviticus 23:39-43

Sukkoth is a Jewish festival of celebration and remembrance. It is a celebration of the completion of the agricultural year, while also bringing to memory Israel's forty year wilderness experience following the exodus form Egypt. The festival itself included three daily rites: prayers at dawn, a morning procession using the Hallel, and an evening torch dance including the chanting of the Psalms of Ascent. These activities occurred in and around the temple in Jerusalem.

Light refreshments will be served in keeping with the spirit of the tradition.

Please bring branches of willow or other native trees, fall flowers, lemons, citron, and ribbons.

ANCIENT WICCA TRADITION

October 30
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Coming from traditions more than 35,000 years old, Wicca is founded on an ethic of a love for life in all its forms, where members are bound to honor and respect all living things and to serve the life force.

Starhawk

Samhain, populary known as Halloween, is both a harvest and a new year festival of Wicca. It symbolizes that every ending is but a new beginning. Through the centuries and from around the world, symbols and rituals join in our present day celebration of Halloween.

Light refreshments will be served in keeping with the spirit of the tradition.

Please bring supplies for mask making; ribbons, cardboard, color makers, scissors.

ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITION

November 20
5:00-7:00 p.m.

"Long ago the Great Mystery caused this land to be, and made the Indians to live in this land....Once, only Indians lived in this land. Then came strangers from across the Great Water. No land had they: we gave them of our land. No food had they: we gave them of our corn...It was meant by the Great Mystery that all should sit down and eat together of my corn.

Hiamovi, chief of the Cheyenne

Thanksgiving is traditionally viewed from the perspective of the Pilgrim settlers and has been set aside as a national day of Thanksgiving. This year in keeping with the traditions of Native American peoples we will be in a spirit of thanksgiving for our home the planet earth and all the bounty she has provided us.

Please bring produce of the earth to be shared with others.

COME TOGETHER GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE EARTH AND EACH OTHER.
ALL ARE WELCOME
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Planning Board Update

There will be a Special Town Meeting at 7:30 on Tues., November 22nd, 1988 to consider adoption of new zoning bylaws being proposed for the town by the Wendell Planning Board. Before the town meeting a hearing will be sponsored by the planning Board at 7:30 at the Town Hall on November 3rd to review the new bylaw. Please come to the hearing and get your questions answered about this important issue before town meeting. Copies of the proposed bylaw can be obtained for review at the Wendell Town Hall, both post offices and the Wendell Country Store. The Planning Board hopes that all concerned citizens will be familiar with the proposed changes before the somewhat lengthy document comes before the town meeting for review.

The proposed zoning bylaws include updated density and dimensional requirements, back lot and use regulations, special permit proceedures for conservation developments and a phased growth proposal. The final proposal has been carefully developed by the planning board with generous help from many people involved in neighborhood planning meetings, concerned citizens and town and county officials. The proposed zoning bylaws contain 12 different articles. They represent what the planning board feels is a good plan to help preserve and protect Wendell's rural character and to prevent catastrophic increases in demands on the town's limited resources. Articles X and XI, conservation development and Phased Growth respectively specically address these issues and are described in some detail in the following section. Articles I, II, and III include the purpose, administration and defination sections: Article IV regulates existing lots or structures which don't conform to the proposed regulations: Article V concerns density and dimensional regulations (1 dwelling per lot, each lot having at least 3 acres and 200' of road frontage, etc.): Article VI concerns use regulations and special permits; Article VII concerns sign regulation; Article IX is about back lot development; Articles Xand XI as mentioned above are for conservation development and Phased Growth respectively; and Article XII is a review procedure for all developments having at least 4 dwelling units. For a review of the origins of Articles IV through IX see "Planning Board Update" p. 10 of the june/ july 1988 Wendell Post.

Prudy Smith

Wendell Arts Council

Greetings from the Wendell Arts Council. We are now convening to process grant applications for the Spring funding cycle. Last cycle we funded some wonderful projects that are just getting under way. Kuumba is organizing an African dance and drumming performance and workshop that will bring a group of Boston based musicians and dancers to our town hall. Costanza Eggers is working with Maple Valley students to produce a video based interview of a long time Wendell resident. This is a pilot project for a long term one: an historical documentary of Wendell. Jennifer Whitcomb returns to Swift River School for a six week creative movement residency for the children of the 1st and 2nd grades. The theme is children's literature, and the project will culminate in a performance of the children's favorite stories. Watercolorist Bob Ellis continues to work on an illustrated history of Wendell entitled "The Wendell We Don't Know". He will create a new painting to be used in conjunction with a chapter written by Charles Smith.

The Arts Council is now offering a relatively new program called P.A.S.S. (Performing Artist/Student Series). Its funding follows the same cycle as other Arts Lottery grants; and any private individual, organization, business, school etc. may apply for the funds. The program enables children in kindergarden through 12th grade to attend performances in theatre, music and dance that are produced by organizations that have been approved by the Mass. Arts Lottery Council. Last cycle Maple Valley students used P.A.S.S. to attend performances by the Alvin Ailey Dance Co. and Rudolf Nureyev at the Wang Center in Boston, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood. If you are interested in attending or sponsoring an event, or would like a list of participating performers, contact any Arts Council member, or refer to the list on the bulletin board at the town hall.

Last September the Arts Council orchestrated the purchase of a new Wurlitzer Studio Upright piano. We are pleased to say that it is being used at coffee houses and other concerts. Many thanks to the Save Bear Mtn. Organization, the Ladies Aid Committee, and everyone who made that purchase possible.

The Arts Council is seeking new members as our three founding members are coming to the end of their six year term. Please contact any of us if you are interested.

Lynne Meryl 544-6277
Carol Spargo 544-6752
Jennifer Whitcomb 544-8502
Pat Judice 544-3529
Phyllis Lawrence (413)367-2175
Anne Diemand 544-6111

Board of Health Notes

UTILITY SPRAYING:

There are new state regultions concerning utility spraying of private wells. Anyone who has a well within 100' of a utility right-of-way (power/railroad etc.) should notify the B.O.H. immediately. We will then tell you the procedure which will help protect your well from being sprayed with dangerous herbicides.

RADON:

Radon has been found in one out of four homes tested recently, according to state environment officials. Dangerous levels were found in one of every 100 tested homes. Radon gas that is made by the decay of radium and uranium found in soil and rocks. It seeps into homes through the foundation and and breaks down into harmful elements that attach to dust particles and can enter the lungs. This can cause cell damage possibly leading to cancer. It is second only to cigarette smoking as a cause of lung cancer.

Test kits are available ($10-$15) and if radon is found contamination can be reduced through improved ventilation or sealing of basements. The State Dept. of Public Health will send a radon information kit including a list of testing companies. Call the agency's Radiation Control Program in Boston 617-727-6214. Wendell's B.O.H. will have info kits available in several weeks.

LEAD:

Homes may have lead in their drinking water supply. Lead from old pipes and/or lead in solder used on copper pipes may leach into the water. Water may be tested (take 2 samples; one first thing in the morning and the 2nd after running the water for 2 minutes; use a clean glass jar. Take sample to a water analysis company). The lead content is reduced by running water 2-3 minutes. Hot water from a hot water tank should not be consumed.

WENDELL'S RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION
WRTS aka the "Dump"
RECYCLING:

The Recycling Committee has been working on the implementation of the town's mandatory recycling by-laws. Presently we recycle glass, newspapers, magazines, paper in general (ie junk mail, computer paper, etc.) We are looking for markets for other materials. Soon to come cardboard and hopefully plastic. To get in on the grown-floor of this exciting endeavor join the recycle committee. Call the B.O.H.

New hours: During the big budget crunch, we decided to close the WRTS on Thurs. Other days and hours remain the same. SAT. 9-5 Tues. 12-6.

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Mahar

FINAL REPORT

Sub-Committee A: Space and Materials

Our tour of Mahar, and subsequent conversations with teachers, staff, and students, clearly indicated a need for more space at Mahar. It is obvious that the staff has made a valiant attempt to utilize every bit of available space, but more space must be created in order to maintain the educational process.

It is to be left to the School Committee and, hopefully, to a Building Committee, to make final recommendations as to what sort of space will eventually be created, but this Sub-Committee feels that a new Middle School building would best create the unique type of space best suiting all our needs. A Middle School has the advantage of being physically removed from the High School, and the special program for a Middle School would be more easily implemented in a separate facility with flexible classroom space.

A Middle School would remove the junior high students from Mahar, and this would free enough space so that most of the remaining space needs at Mahar could be remedied. The additional space would allow more flexible class scheduling, teachers could once again have their own classrooms, and additional storage and office space could be arranged. Some renovation would be necessary, but solutions for many of the most pressing space needs could be achieved with the additional space created by removing the junior high.

This Sub-Committee toured the entire physical plant while the school was emply, and we made note of many major problem areas. The most pressing space needs of each area seem to be the following:

In the Office Area the teacher and staff mailboxes are open pigeon holes in the main traffic area. There is no confidentiality or privacy here, as any students waiting in the Office for discipline, tardiness, absence, or any other reason, may scan the contents of the mailboxes. In-coming mail and packages are piled on a table next to the door, and could easily be mis-appropriated. A telephone for faculy use is situated in this area, right next to chairs used by students and visitors waiting to see administrators. There is no privacy here.

The office counter is crowded with file boxes, sign-in books, etc. Several secretaries are crowded into an area between the safe, the switchboard, counter, and telephones, making access to the files difficult. There appears to be no open work area.

There is no private waiting area for parents or visitors waiting to see teachers, administrators, or counselors. Visitors must sit with students waiting in the office area.

The corridor between the main office and administration offices is filled with machinery (printers, copiers, etc.). The School Psychologist's Office was once a supply room. The Guidance Office area is crammed with counters, a table, files, and three small cramped Counselor's Offices. There is no conference area, no space for students to consider literature from colleges and Armed Forces, and no storage space for records.

The Basic Skills Office is crowded with the computer and printer used for attendance and work areas there are uncomfortable. The Nurse's area is crowded, with little area for the Nurse to do any conferencing. Space for physical examinations is limited.

The Foreign Language Department is spread out in three areas of the school, including the 20-year old "temporary classroom" building. There is an obvious need for storage space, and the "Language Lab" area has been divided to provide space for the Remedial Reading program; but now the Language program needs space. One of the old telephone booths is labeled "Foreign Language Materials" Foreign Language teachers may hold classes in several different rooms, making it difficult to make use of audio visual materials.

In this department, as in all departments it would be better if each teacher had his/her own classroom. This would allow maximum benefit from bulletin boards, displays, special equipment, etc. With teachers having to run from one end of the building to another between classes, they are unavailable to their students for those brief but important quick conferences. They cannot take care of their own needs for filing, preparation, etc. because they are forced to use the three minute time between periods to get themselves and their materials through the halls during general passing.

The Business Department has also outgrown its three rooms. Some Business classes are given in other classrooms, and there is need for much more storage space. Also, the Department does not have the space to create a "simulated office", which is the preferred method for training students in Business Practices.

The Mathematics Department has subdivided some classrooms, but there is still a need for more computer areas. Flexible classrooms would make it possible to offer more advanced courses and to deal more effectively with computer training. Some Math Classes are held in the "temporary building", isolating those students from the Math area computers.

The Social Studies and English Department teachers must travel for many of their classes. Some teachers must move from one wing to another and then back for different classes. As we mentioned before, this is not a good situation, and it often results in teachers deciding not to use supplemental materials because it is too difficult to transport those materials.

The Senior High Wing is crowded. Several rooms are shared by two teachers, so that when one teacher has a preparation period, that teacher must interrupt another class to use a desk or to get papers to correct, etc. Otherwise the teacher not using the room for a class must carry all necessary materials to the Cafeteria or Library in an effort to find a place to work. There is no area where teachers may leave work in progress to work quietly without interruption.

The "Teachers Room" is now used for socializing for the teachers' "bag lunch" area; for men's and ladies rest rooms, faculty smoking area, and is the site for duplicating machines and copiers. The "woman's side" has the copy machine and the telephone, used by both men and women, so in actuality there is no "ladies room". A small table serves as lunch counter and work area for teachers who try to correct papers or update lesson plans during their Prep period.

There is no place where teachers may leave work undisturbed when they return to class, and because they do not have access to their desks during class time, it is difficult for teachers to work on class preparation, grades, reports, or anything else during their preparation periods.

The Junior High Wing is no longer used exclusively for grade seven and eight classes. Some high school classes are held there, and some Junior high classes are held in other parts of the building, due to need to distribute classes to available rooms. One classroom has been divided and the rear section is now the Speech Therapy center. However, there is no space to schedule conferences among Speech students, staff, and parents.

High School Special Needs students also meet in the Junior High wing, in an area which needs more storage space and lab space. A whole report on Special Needs space requirements has been prepared by the Department, but it is obvious that more space is needed simply to provide adequate service throughout this Department. There is no central area for the staff to meet, and there is no parent conference area available, even though such conferences are needed frequently.

Because of space and scheduling conflicts, both Junior and Senior High students are in the Cafeteria at the same time for lunch, and they are together in several areas of the school. This is not a healthy situation.

The former paper supply room at the head of the Junior High Wing has been remodeled several times. At present it has been divided into two separate office areas, serving several programs. One part is the center for the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program and the Drop-out Prevention Program The other office houses the Cooperative Education Program, Grant-Writing for the District, and Job Placement.

The old "Bookstore" has undergone several transformations, including classroom, office, and storage, and is now used as the Student Discipline Center.

The "Stage Prop Room" is now used to house janitorial supplies.

The "Committee Room" is now the Office for the Special Needs Administrator.

The Science Wing is badly crowded. Lab space is limited, work space is cramped and storage space is non-existent. File cabinets crowd the area between classrooms, and books are piled onwhat could be work space.

The Science faculty is doing an admirable job, and our students consistently do well in Regional and State Science Fairs, but there is no storage area for long-term projects, lab space is limited, and storage and work space is almost non-existent. There, too, teachers must share classrooms, and more flexible classroom space would be an advantage.

The Audio Visual Department is a tiny, window-less room between the Library and the Office corridor. Thousands of dollars worth of materials and equipment are crammed into a room hardly big enough to walk through when all the televisions and VCRs are out in the classrooms. When the equipment is in the Department, it is impossible for a teacher to walk through the room to obtain access to the copier. Teachers cannot make good use of all the tapes and records in the school because they do not know what is available. No attempt to organize and catalog all this material can succeed until space is available in which to organize it.

The Art/Shop/Music Wing is also crowded. The two Art rooms are used by three teachers, on occasion three distinct classes must meet in the two rooms. Supply space has been used to capacity. There is need for space to store materials, and for space to store student Art projects.

The Shop area really needs an additional classroom, and the machines in the Metal Shop need to be spaced out so that they may be utilized more fully. Also, this is one area where materials seem to need updating. New machinery would be helpful, but there is no place to put it.

The Music area needs practice areas and storage. The school owns thousands of dollars worth of instruments, equipment and music which is not being stored properly because of space limitations. Scheduling is also a problem in this entire wing, because students are not able to take classes which they want. Especially in the Junior High School, students may not be able to fit in one quarter of a year of chorus, for example, so that the Spring Concert may occur before some students have

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even had a chance to take Chorus. Advanced level courses may be eliminated because there is no space in which to place the classes.

The Library could be the subject of an entire report. Space is extremely limited. The Library is one of the heaviest-usage areas in the school, and more space is needed for shelf space, for media, and for student work areas.

At the present time, one small room at the rear of the Library, which was once used as a Coordinator Office, houses part of the school's collection of history books. A table in that room is used for meetings, for small groups of students to work together, and occasionally for conferences. Another small room is a Coordinator Office and also houses a computer and printer.

A table at the rear of the Library is reserved for faculty use, but is sometimes used for students on Independent Study, for CO-OP students doing work for teachers, or for faculty members to meet with various salesmen, other staff members, etc. When this table is being used, it is much more difficult to maintain quiet in the adjoining area of the Library. Student tables are placed very close to each other and to the book stacks. When students are sitting at the tables, it is impossible to get to the stacks to locate books. The Library is crowded often, and this year it will be used as a room for study hall during the lunch period, so it will be even more crowded, and may not be available for student research.

The Library has no individual areas for students to utilize records and tapes from its collection. Much more could be done with existing materials if space were available.

The Home Economics Department offers many useful courses, but again scheduling is a problem. The classroom area between the Foods room and the Sewing room is sometimes used by other departments, limiting its usefulness as storage and work area for Home Economics students.

The Physical Education Department also needs more classroom area, storage space, and office space.

The Junior High Science rooms need additional laboratory space, and there is no space for storage of long-term projects for either the Junior or Senior High Science classes.

In general, any space available has been used, and the facility is being utilized to the fullest. Students are already suffering from limited course offerings, mostly because there are no small classrooms in which to schedule small classes, and because some courses must be eliminated to fit in other required courses. Storage space is very limited, and because new materials are required, many departments have run out of space for materials.

With the number of students attending Mahar, scheduling remains a big problem. Removal of the Junior High would make additional flexible classroom space available. Unless flexible space is made available, some courses and sections of courses must be eliminated. Removal of two classes would provide enough space for most of the Senior High scheduling conflicts to be resolved.

Material storage is a problem, and teacher work space is almost non-existent. Empty classrooms could easily be renovated to provide both storage and Office area. We can see successful resolution of many of Mahar's most pressing space problems if the Junior High is removed, and the removal would at the same time expedite the formation and development of a new Middle School Program.

The Middle School concept is a Program whose time has come. It is fortunate that we can recommend such a new program at a time when removal of Junior High students from Mahar can only be seen as a positive step in a sound educational program.

Maureen Riendeau
Janice Lanou
Wilfred Stockwell
Jean Forward

Swift River School Enrichment Program

Over the years, public schools have responded to the needs of gifted and talented children in various ways. A number of years ago, the first through third grade teacher at Wendell Center School called the parents of a first grader. He told them that their daughter had learned to read very quickly, and, within months of learning, was reading with the most advanced third graders. Standardized tests rated her intelligence in the upper 5% of the population. "It's too bad that there are no programs for gifted students in this district," he said, "You'll have to do whatever you can yourself to help her develop her talents."

More recently, ending in 1987, the Talented and Gifted Program at Greenfield Community College offered afterschool and Saturday morning classes and activities for Franklin County students identified as being gifted in academics, or leadership, or creativity, or performing arts. Swift River School was willing to recommend any child who was motivated to use the program. The purpose of these separate-from-school classes was to provide extra stimulation and challenge to students who were ready to move beyond what they were learning in their local classrooms.

At present, teachers at Swift River try to adapt classroom materials to fit the needs of students at all levels of ability, including providing more challenging materials for highly motivated students.

Audrey Broll, 3, works on her stage presence in the safety of her father's arms during budget information meeting in August. Dad, Steve Broll, is chair of the finance committee

This year, Janet Poritz, Enrichment Coordinator, is assisting teachers to define and consolidate enrichment within classrooms. She is accomplishing this by encouraging and supporting what teachers are already doing and by helping teachers develop new means of within-classroom enrichment.

"It's important to enrich within the normal learning setting, without taking kids out of the classroom," Janet Poritz says. The Enrichment Program doesn't try to define giftedness based on IQ or standardized tests, but to encourage motivated and creative students within the classroom. For instance, children who complete regular work might be able to use extra time in a Challenge Center, located in the class, in which they could use educational kits to explore subjects such as soils or the human body. The children would work independently on a project over a period of time and share their results with their classmates. In this way, the educational benefits gained by the more interested students would be shared with the entire group.

Another method of stimulating development is the use of presenters, people with specialized knowledge or abilities who would put students in touch with topics not a part of the regular curriculum. As one example, Janet Poritz is contacting representatives of the Bush and Dukakis presidential campaigns to lead classroom discussions on how a political campaign is organized.

A second aspect of the Enrichment Program is a series of afterschool clubs-computer, science, chess, drama, or other clubs-organized and run by community volunteers. The volunteers, working individually or in teams, would meet with children for an hour after school and give them an opportunity to explore topics that interest them. Leverett elementary school has been running a program like this for a year, and several clubs have been highly successful. A computer club, expected to meet for 6 weeks, continued for the entire school year because interest was so great. A drama club was especially stimulating and interesting for all the student involved. According to Janet Poritz, the stimulation and learning from these clubs "filters back into the classroom" and is shared by all of the students. Volunteers are still needed to share their interests with children at Swift River. "I'm excited about seeing it take off in the next few months, " Janet Poritz says.

The Enrichment Program is funded by the state, and is limited to several years. Janet Poritz hopes that, when the funding ends, teachers and community volunteers will be able to continue enriching education in New Salem and Wendell.

K. Nolan

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Halloween Party

Yes, good people of Wendell, there will be a Children's Halloween Party on Monday, October 31, 1988 from 6-7pm.

Starting with a Costume Parade on the Common so dress up and join the fun! Meet us at the Town Hall to begin the festivities, promptly at 6pm. Bring along drums, kazoos and noise makers for an added flair, if you will!!

Rumor has it there will be a "Spooky Walk" and maybe a Gypsy Fortune Teller. (And a few other surprises, too.)

Children and adults are invited to make decorations (tissue paper ghosts, pumpkins, witches, etc.) and bring them to the Town Hall the day of the party. Anyone interested in donating baked goods for the refreshment table or helping in another way such as set up, clean up, helping with activities may do so. The community is encouraged to participate. There has been so much positive response to the newly formed Halloween Party Committee. It is sure to be the best ever! Come join the fun!!

Mez 544-6252

Ride Needed

Ride needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays to Amherst/Hadley leaving before 7AM. Shared costs. Please contact Carlen at 544-8457 evenings (or leave a message and name).

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

There will be a public hearing on Nov. 3, 1988, at 7:30 PM in the Wendell Town Hall to discuss the proposal of NEW ZONING BYLAWS.

Copies of the proposed Bylaws are available at Wendell stores and post offices.

Are You Forgetting Something?

Do you have a long over-due book or two from the Wendell Free Lebrary?

Don't be embarrassed, just bring them back to the library. We have no fines, just thanks. Open WED 12-4, 6-8, SAT 10-2

The Wendell Free Library is looking for a copy of The History of wendell. This book is old and our of print. Does anyone know of a copy the library could buy or borrow? Call any trustee or stop by during our hours.

Swatting away: Mez Davis supervises the pinata as Friends of the Library hold an end-of-summer party for the reading program.

Help!

The Wendell Finance Committee is still in dire need of a fifth member. Help change history!! Help the budget process when and where it will count!

Contact Stephen Broll
4-3223

Police Log

9/13 Joseph Diemand reported money stolen from his house.

9/18 Numerous mailboxes on Mormon Hollow Road smashed.

9/27 One car accident on Locke Hill. Two people went to hospital.

10/11 Bill Fisher, Jr. hit and killed a deer on Depot Hill.

Land Transfers

8/12/88 Emma Cappelluzzo to James R. & Janet S. Sawyer. 2.1 A. & house. East side of West Road.

8/3/88 Raymond E. Ayery to Michael T. & Judith A. Anderson. 8.6 A. on Kentfield Rd.

8/4/88 Shane M. Devine to Valley Land Fund 40 A. on Benjamin Hill Road.

8/16/88 Lucy E. May to Richard J. Lemansky 51 A. in East part of Wendell.

8/20/88 Alvin M. & Rae A. Kowacki to Dale C. Kowacki. 60 A. on Old Farley Road.

8/25/88 Allyn W. & Joan G. Coombs to Robert D. Hudson & Joy Gorzocoski. 3.982 A. South side of Stone Road.

Piano Pitch

Last September the Wendell Town Hall expanded its cultural horizons with the addition of a Wurlitzer Studio Upright Piano.

Having this fine instrument available in our performance space encourages professional musicians to bring their talents to our town. Local musicians also benefit from an IN - TUNE piano.

BUT... Winter is approaching, The Town Hall freezes out regularly, and we need some simple co-operation to keep the piano in good condition. Here's the pitch.....

(1) ALWAYS LEAVE THE PIANO TOTALLY COVERED IN IT'S QUILTED CASE.

(2) ALWAYS LEAVE THE PIANO AGAINST THE INTERIOR WALL THAT BACKS UP ON THE KITCHEN.

(3) NEVER LEAVE THE PIANO NEAR THE WINDOW OR DOOR. DRAFTS CAN CAUSE THE TUNING TO GO OUT PREMATURELY, HARM THE SOUNDING BOARD, AND EVEN PERMANENTLY AFFECT THE PIANO'S ABILITY TO BE PROPERLY TUNED.

Please remember these suggestions if you're the last one out after an event. WE CAN LIVE IN SWEET HARMONY. Thanks.

Lynne Meryl representing
Wendell Arts Council

"If the giving and receiving are not equal, then there cannot be balance."

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Discussion of Articles V and XI

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 22
7:30 pm

Wendell is not the same town it was ten years ago nor are the pressures upon the town the same. While it is true that change is inevitable, there seems to be an overall desire among residents to find ways of preserving some of the natural features and rural atmosphere that enhance all our lives here. This has been the task of the planning board over the past year. The neighborhood meetings, held throughout Wendell in May, introduced basic zoning possibilities being proposed by the planning board to insure that all residents have a voice in long range planning for our community.

The planning board is proposing two innovative concepts that we feel will help shape and protect Wendell as we know it for the generations of animals and kids to come. These proposals have been developed as groups of of concerned residnets have looked at our present community situation in the light of future opportunities as well as dangers.

The first: PHASED GROWTH, is a temporary (5-year)measure aimed at giving the town time to develop a master plan to provide for our future.

The second, CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT, is a way to creatively shape multiple unit developments in a manner which reduces stress on the environment.

PRESENT STYLE OF DEVELOPMENT

I. Zoning without Conservation Development plan. A. Leaves no large areas for wildlife and recreational/open space, B. Postage stamp/bowling alley lots with all road frontage used for houses, c. Could look like a suburb.

II. Unchecked growth (without Phased Growth) A. Causes need for increased taxes to cover demand for more services: e.g., schools, roads, fire protection, recycle and transfer station, etc., B. Town threatened by large developers exempt from Planning Board review who 1) can exert control from outside of town, 2) may not consider the interests and needs of local residents or environmental conditions, 3) may exploit the land for cash profit causing a) destr uction of forests, b) disruption of wildlife habitat and migratorh patterns, c) polluting of waters, d) altering natural traffic patterns, e) changin neighborhoods and schools.

PROPOSALS

I. PHASED GROWTH

A) Temporary (5-year) measure aimed at giving the town time to develop a master plan to provide for our future, B) Controls growth over a limited period of time, C) Time for town to plan long-term growth strategies, D) Gives town time to increase services as the town grows, E) will save us money as increased growth equals increased cost to town (residential houses cost town 10-15% more than they bring in in revenue), F) Town can shape growth by making 1) space available for affordable housing, 2) conservation development permits encouraged, 3) special conservation permits for a single house on larger parcel of land (see proposed bylaws for specific details); G) Slowing growth improves town's tax base--residential development costs the town money, H) Property values will increase with phased growth: 1) area towns which have adopted moratoriums or phased growth have experienced dramatic increases in property values, 2) demand for existing dwellings increased, 3) rehabilitation and improvement of existing units encouraged; I) Phased growth will have no effect on the ability to sell one's home, 1) demand for existing housing will increase, 2) phased growth does not apply to home sales. It only limits total number of new building permits issued annually; J) Phased Growth also does not apply to land sales. It only limits the total number of building permits issued annually.

II. CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT

A) A way to creatively shape multi-unit developments which would otherwise significantly change Wendell's rur l character, B) Allows for grouping of dwellings in one area of a larger piece of land, C) Creative use of land: 1) leaves large area undeveloped for wildlife and recreation/open space, 2) one driveway seen from road. Houses off the road, 3) allows for planning of homes in relation to schools, medical facilities, fire/police protection, community buildings, recreation areas, farm lands, water/energy/power sources/conservation areas.

Prudy Smith

con't: Slavas Resigns

It was an approach that began to define the town for him--loose, comfortable, friendly and accomodating. As he remembers it, that first wave of non-conformist "hippies" were we;comed, even by the old-timers. "As I recall, " he said, "there was no fear or anxiety about us until it got to the point that more than a third of the town was new people." When the balance started to shift, folks rightly began to worry about what was going to happen to the old ways--the ways that had made Wendell as comfortable and friendly as it was when Jim found it.

During the 70's, the invasion was modified and the issues fought to a resolution of sorts, and at the time Jim became a selectman in 1981 most groups had accepted--if not made their peace with-- most other groups. Not that they agreed on the issues-they didn't--but each had learned to accept the existence of the other, and each was gradually adjusting to the changing character of the town...and themselves.

Jim was part of that adjustment. When he was elected to the Board to fill out the last year of Ed Boland's term, he discovered that town tradition dictated that whichever member of the board was in their last term of office was the Chair. Technically, since it would have been Ed, the honor was supposed to go now to Jim. "But that didn't make any sense," Jim says. He had just been elected, never been on the Board before; for the new guy on the block to insist on his right to be the Chair would have set up a lot of tensions that had only recently been eased. Besides, he couldn't have done the job as he thought it should be done, and that wouldn't have been good for the town. "I told them I didn't want to be chairman," he shrugs. "I didn't either."

Balancing these two competing values--the rights of the individual against the good of the town--is what Jim sees as an underlying reality in every decision a member of a local government has to make. He always tried, he said, to connect with people's concerns even when he had to go against them.

"I always feel uncomfortable making the kinds of decisions that have to balance the competing values of town versus individual. They both have rights that need to be respected, but when you're speaking for the town, then "the interests of the town as you see them have to come first." This is often difficult, "but I think, looking back on it, I've done well."

"Daddy, all these numbers are giving me a headache," says little Audrey.

A case in point involved one of the brouhahas over Route 2. As a member of the Coalition that was mounting a campaign against the road, Jim was in favor of trying to kill the project altogether; but as a member of the town government, he felt it was his job to negotiate with the builders to get the best deal he could for the town should the road go through.

"This was the breaking point with the Coalition," he said--they didn't understand how he could say one thing and do something else. To Jim, that was the essence of being in government.

Town officials need to "define a...view of where the town wants to go" and then do their best to follow it; the difficulty comes because Wendell is not a homogeneous unit"--competing groups have competing interests. The strength of local government is its closeness to those interests, and its unique ability to be effective comes from the direct input of those interests. On the other hand, when the competing interests "lack respect for opposing viewpoints," town officials are likely to find themselves in the middle of an untenable, no-win situation.

"What has been frustrating to me is the lack of trust people seem to have that the basic instincts of their town officials are bent towards the good of the town," he said. "I suppose it's just easier to fight against something than to come up real solutions. So much energy goes to mouthing off.." Which is not to say, he added, that people shouldn't have strong positions and hold them: "My anxiety arises when it looks like positions come from ideology rather than genuine feeling."

Ideology holds its position in spite of facts while genuine feeling will adjust to facts in an attempt to find a solution that works. "Feel-good positions don't replace the nitty-gritty work of a town. That takes long-term commitment."

Asked about his own commitment and what he thought it had accomplished he nearly blushed.

"Well, nothing physical, not a monument or anything that concrete--"

What he is proudest of is the work of the Board in opening up the town process. "We've always been willing to listen, and we've never tried to pull technicalities on people to protect our turf. We've really tried to educate people about town processes and encourage them to participate."

Part of what the effort to open things up had meant is establishing of communication between the various town boards, which previously worked largely in isolation, fitfully, their work either unknown to or not taken very seriously by the town." People are more aware of what the various town boards do and how they operate and take them seriously. "I feel funny saying that since the override," he laughed, "and the way I sort of left in a huff, but I think the vote at the last town meeting ratified the direction for the town that the Selectboard came up with, and that ratification will allow the town to evolve", and that, he said, is what really counts.

Given the vastly different personalities and points of view represented on the Board, how did he think they'd managed to find that direction?

"We've been able to really work together, I think, because we have a basic respect; we've always been able to talk to each other always been willing to listen," and that in turn came from an understanding that they were each working for the good of the town.

Selectboard Chairman Ted Lewis agreed "It's a big loss for the town," he said, speaking of Slavas resignation. "He was dedicated and worked hard, he gave a lot of long hours. We'll miss him."

And that, in the end, says it all.

michael j. mcphee

First Anniversary

The store was decorated with "Happy Anniversary" banners and bouquets of balloons to set the stage for our first year anniversary celebration. Customers purchased their coffee in bright red travel mugs with a caricature of the store on them and shared a piece of anniversary cake.

It has been a busy year for us in and around the store and house. We got the pool open, which was much enjoyed during those hot days in July and August. We planted a vegetable garden and many flowers, expanded the parking lot, increased the luncheon specials adding tofu burgers to the menu and continue to have home baked desserts.

In order to offer better and more competitively priced products, we changed milk and bread companies, got Sweet Life to deliver grocery products, and Sysco to deliver restaurant supplies. We carry Springfield, Greenfield, Athol and Boston Herald daily papers plus Globe, Herald and Springfield Sunday papers.

In February, we ran the "name the sandwich" contest which was won by Iris Evernow and the "Futterwich" was born. Lots of people participated and the contest added some spark to the long winter months.

We were open at 5:30am for hunters breakfast the first week of December and plan to do the same this year.

In April we opened "Rags to Riches" a new and used clothing swap managed by Penny Wilder. Bargains range from 50¢ to $20. Credit is given for used clothing that can be used to purchase other clothing items. The shop is open on weekends.

It has been fun getting to know everyone and how best to serve the community. We have received lots of suggestions and you all will see more changes in the coming year.

We would like to thank the staff, Candy Hebert, Penny Wilder, Raeann Maynard, April Hebert and Lola Bedaw for making the first year a successful one.

A special thanks to all of you for making us welcome and for your patronage.

Cheryl A. Perkins, Owner
Pat Brown, Manager
Wendell Country Store

P.S. A reminder-with the holidays coming, order you pies early.

Horseshoeing
Tony Diemand 544-2851

DELI - SNACKS - BEER - WINES - FOOD
WENDELL COUNTRY STORE
OPEN
HOURS MON-SAT 7:30AM-8PM SUN 9-4PM
PLUS RAGS TO RICHES CLOTHING

Footbaggers Leave

January 1,1987 Honduras, Central America

"...Waiting out a torrid, unplanned layover in the Tegucigalpa airport, I start a low-key "hack" jam on the edge of the tarmac with two gringo companions. Immediately, a Honduran airport guard (already suspicious of our delegation en route to Nicaragua) strides menacingly toward us. But, before he can speak, I extend the footbag and jokingly invite him to try out our little game. Obviously an aficionado of "futbol", he cannot resist giving the leather sack one quick kick to show off...then another, and then another... Flushed with success, the airport guard remains in our circle dribbling and passing, all the while hanging on to his hidden revolver. Within minutes, our now bilingual game attracts the attention of another guard, perhaps a superior, who marches over scrutinizing the strange event. Before long, he too is engulfed by the gleeful dance, displaying quick reflexes and fancy foot skills of his own. Finally, a third guard appears requesting his due crack at "el futbolito". By now I realize, the entire terminal is watching the spectable of the gringos and the Honduran plainclothesmen flicking a tiny ball across the tarmac, laughing and shrieking at one another! The game ends as quickly as it began, but a heady communion lingers over the sweltering terminal until we board our plane to leave..."

excerpted from Peace, Politics and Footbag Diplomacy by Daniel Botkin

The Footbag Peace Initiative is a five-member, citizen diplomacy project dedicated to planting seeds of intercultural friendship and hope by playing and teaching "Sack" in Central America this fall.

The overwhelming need for fresh, face to face contacts between ourselves (North Americans) and the people of Central America has never been more clear. Our leaders have failed utterly, historically to build progressive and responsible relationships with our southern neighbors. Generations of chauvinism and intervention instead leave hateful stereotypes of "gringos" and of our country. In Central America today, we Norteamericanos are simultaneously envied, feared and despised.

As a group of North American citizens devoted to playing, sharing and sewing "el futbolito" (known widely here as "Hacky Sack"), we present a potent alternative to the prevailing stereotype. As gringo emmisaries in these soccer loving cultures, we come armed with leather scraps, needles and an undying love of foot games.

Footbag thus becomes a genuine, people-to-people offering of joy. Kicking the supple bags together in a circle is do enormously and outrageously fun that players often cannot willfully stop. The game (trying to keep the thing aloft until each player touches it...) emerges as a catalyst of cooperation and communication within the circle and ultimately, a living metaphor of mutuality and interdependence.

By staging daily, public spectacles of performance and play, kicking and sewing clinics, we open a context to "speak" with the Central American people, and to listen. As "Footbaggers for Peace", our presence, our attitudes and our choreography can become a voice expressing our solidarity and our friendship.

The fact that soccer ("el futbol") is almost universally practiced and adored in Latin America makes footbag uniquely qualified as a medium for this kind of cultural exchange. Rather than flaunting some exotic import like hula hoop, designer jeans or napalm, the FPI troupe arrives cradling only the diminuative cousin of the people's favorite sport. Without looking to buy or sell, hire or invest, these gringos come simply to share "our" little game as a gesture of Peace.

But the FPI mission does not end here. We footbag activists are committed to bringing this experience back home to the States as a focus for education, imagination and consciousness raising. Millions of North Americans today remain confused, apathetic or ignorant about Central America. The Footbag Peace Initiative can be a medium by which apolitical gringos (young, self-involved, yuppified or otherwise) become curious about and attentive to the situation "down there". The FPI project sets an example of participation and hope which also bears fruit through the imaginative responses of those whom we touch.

Creating a documentary film of the FPI peace brigade will make this experience accessible to thousands who would have no other reason to care about cultural relations or Central America. Prizewinning, area film maker Robbie Leppzer ("Harvest of Peace", "The Call of the Peace Pagoda", etc.) will travel with the troupe shooting footage of the project. Efforts are underway to solicit funding for this exciting film endeavor as well as to promote the participation of other artists, athletes, advocates and donors who want to send some positive energy to Central America. Contributions can be made through the Traprock Peace Center. Call or write for FPI brochure: P.O. Box 163 Wendell, MA 01379. Telephone: (508) 544-8982.

Dan Botkin
FPI Coordinator

DR. PAUL A. KOWACKI
PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC
NORTH QUABBIN CHIROPRACTIC CARE
26 NORTH MAIN STREET, ORANGE, MASS. 01364
(508) 544-7902

Recycling in Wendell

RECYCLING IS LIKE WASHING CLOTHES--
NOT RECYCLING THEM IS LIKE THROWING THEM
OUT AFTER ONE USE

The Wendell Recycling Committee formed about two years ago as a volunteer branch of the board of health trying to deal with the growing trash problem in Town. Over the winter we learned about current markets for recycled materials and other trash disposal alternatives being developed by the state; we decided what materials the Town could start recycling and painted the signs which are at the Recycling Center now, explaining what goes where. That took all spring, and in summer we disbanded, agreeing to reform in the fall when all of us would be in Town together again.

It was not until early last summer that the committee reformed. We now have four members who are meeting at the recycling center every other Saturday. We have been painting signs, beginning to think about future sheds and traffic rerouting as well as looking for markets for some of our finest recycled goods.

We recently picked up a baler from Wilton Recycling Center that has the potential to bale cardboard, plastics and aluminum. The baler is not working at the moment but we see that, fixed, it could have an integral function at the Recycling Center.

In an upcoming effort to orient and update townfolks on current recycling efforts, the committee will be present each Saturday during the Month of November at the Recycling Center. We need volunteers for 2-4 hours on these Saturdays to help with this effort. Please call Dor at 544-8961 if interested.

Josh Heinemann
Joyce Greenberg

Planning Ahead

As your relatively new building inspector, I am learning that there are a lot of"last minute" folks in this town, people who only think of applying for a building permit the day before they want to start construction.

This isn't so much true of new people in t town, people who plan to build a new house.

These people usually get to the Town Hall several weeks in advance. It's those of us who have been in town a few years and who decide to build a garage or barn, storage or wood shed, ordo some renovations.

The post holes are dug, the building is ready to go up, and BINGO - a light goes on in the brain - the realization hits that bonafide building permit is needed.

The purpose of this article is to encourage you to think sooner about this need for several reasons:

1. If you start construction without a permit I am required to charge a double fee.
2. From the time you submit your application until I issue a permit, I have, by law, 30 days to review your plans. Many folks come to me with rather unorthodox plans. If I have a question about your plans--in terms ofstructural safety or state building code applicability, I must take the time needed to review before I issue a permit. If you haven't planned ahead, this could really slow you down.
3. If you start construction without a permit, it may be necessary to require that you remove the building--if it doesn't meet buidling codes, conservation or health regulations.

I am in the Town hall every Monday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. (except holidays). Perm it applications can also be picked up in Town hall every weekday during business hours. So far I haven't missed a Monday due to illness, but one such time is bound to happen. So do plan ahead!

Ann Perkins
Wendell Building Inspec.

Military Flyovers

Have the huge military planes sent your heart pounding and made you want to lie flat on the ground as they brush the tops of the trees trying to avoid "Russian radar" while flying over Wendell?

Well, don't just let your anger and blood pressure rise and feel helpless - Do something. Call 413-557-1110 and ask for Public Relations at the Westover Air Force Base. They say that they are taking public opinion into account when devising flight patterns and even admit that they are presently in litagation. Do it NOW and every time one flys over.

JUDITH A. McINTOSH
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1782 MAIN STREET
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS 01331
(617) 249-7986

Northern Wendell's Future

A building permit has been issued by Building Inspector Ann Perkins for construction of a home on Old Farley Road in the remote northern section of Town. Dale Kowacki wants to build a homestead on land he has purchased from his father, Alvin Kowacki of Erving, about a mile west of the Arch St. Bridge. (This bridge crosses Millers River behind the Erving Paper Co. administration building in the center of Erving.) The property is hemmed by state forest and private land on the northern side of Bear Mountain, about two hundred yards from the river.

Old Farley Road has been under review by the Town in recent years for discontinuance of maintenance. By his own researach, Dale determined that it was already formally discontinued in 1901. The planning board and selectboard feel development in this section would be costly and undesirable. Road maintenance and school vehicles can only reach it through Erving Center; the road iself has many culverts and a small bridge that are potnetial repair and maintenance headaches).

It is the part of Town rescued from Rt. 2 relocation plans by a ten-year campaign to conserve the south bank of the Millers as a wild area. The state Department of Environmental Management has placed a high priority on protection and acquisition of this area.

Dale acknowledges the restrictions inherent in the site. He says he will park his car and walk from a gate he will erect near the Arch St. Bridge in cooperation with the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He says any children living with him would walk the approximately 1¼ mi. along Old Farley Road to Farley for busing to school. He is not asking for Town maintenance of Old Farley Road from the bridge to his property.

A local party has offered to exchange a piece of property near the center of Town with Dale in order to protect the Old Farley Road piece and nip the impression that the private land in the area is desireable for development. They hope to buy time until the state can acquire all the property there. Dale is currently considerthe the offer.

Bear Mountain Preservation Association has a chartered interest in securing the undeveloped northern part of Town--Bear Mountain--along the Millers River between Wendell Depot and Farley for wildlife, recreation and natural renewal. Dale's plans "present a special problem," says Anne Zak, president, "since he is very sensitive to the need to protect and conserve nature. But he's mortal, like the rest of us, and the public interest may require something more permanent."

She asks the following questions for people to consider:

- What is the highest and best use of the area and its few remaining private parcels: wilderness or development?
- If development, can the Town risk the possible future expense of servicing the area?
- If wilderness, state forest, or other open status, should the state be urged to take by eminent domain Dale's parcel and any others in that section threatened by development?

(Under eminent domain, the owner is paid full market a value for the property but must turn it over to the state for the public good. In a small town like Wendell it can leave scars as personalities are known. Nevertheless, Selectman Michael Idoine has spoken to Dale about the possibility of invoking that procedure).)

Anne urges Townspeople to express their views to the selectboard.

Jonathan von Ranson

Vote Yes on Question 4

On August 17th Jonathan Von Ranson, Brad Powell and myself rode our bicycles from Orange to Gardner with the Solar Rollers. The Solar Rollers rode across Massachusetts in August, talking to voters about the referendum question 4 which will be on the ballot in November. voters are being asked if they want to ban the production of electricity in the Commonwealth by means which produce nuclear waste by July 4,1989.

Along the route that day we talked to folks about this issue. A relentless clarity drove me to fearlessly approach people on the street, in stores, carpenters working on houses, personel and customers in McDonald's. It is very exciting that we have the oppurtunity to vote on this issue and affect a very positive change.

These are some of the points that I discussed with folks along the way:

1. Public Safety - The two plants in Mass., Pilgrim which is considered to be the worst run nuclear power in the country are prone to deterioration and failed systems. They both leak radiation into the air thus are a health hazard. These problems have lethal consequences.
2. High Level Waste - Fuel rods with an energy producing life span of just three years must be isolated from the environment for the next quarter of a million years. There is no technology available at any cost to safely store this waste.
3. Energy Produced - Rowe produces 2% of our electrical power. Pilgrim has the capacity of 6% but has only ever produced half that amount and has produced no electrical power in the past couple of years. Through conservation alone via energy-efficient bulbs and appliances we can make up the difference of what these two plants could produce. Other safer technologies currently exist that can produce electrical power; cogeneration, hydro power, solar power and wind power.

The discontinuence of the power plants are the first step to recognizing there are limitations to our excessive energy requirements. We must further limit our energy needs in order to sustain life on the planet. Let the moon light your way and not flourescent bulbs powered by planet-threatening technologies.

Joyce Greenberg

This is a gathering of the Wendell family. Like all families, we have our difficulties. The strife that divides us, test the bonds that make us. It defines the quality of our lives--as individuals, and as community. Only good-hearted people can discover the way that is best. So let's pretend - each of us:

Pretend that you are a good person with good neighbors, so that your heart is open.

Pretend that you are an intelligent person among interesting people, so that your mind is open.

Pretend that you are a sympathetic person, among friends , so that you may speak freely,
free from anger and
free from attack

Pretend that your anger is elsewhere and that your peace is here.
Do this. Pretend all this is true, and it will be true.

We will have what we create.

Anonymous

Budgetary concerns dominated Wendell politics this summer. Here Ann Zak addresses the Finance Committee at a Budget Information Meeting

This origional poem was dropped off anonymously at the home of the Wendell Town Moderator on the eve of the controversial Special Town meeting.

Scenes of the Season

1

Hey! Those spots of color in the field
Aren't morning glories--
They're fallen autumn leaves!

2

Bright October morning:
Ache-ing cold pond water,
A discarded snake skin by the shore.

3

Honk! Honk! Honk!
Night flying geese, southbound,
Wake me from a warm sleep.

4

Before dawn, the path back from the woodshed,
Covered with rain-soaked leaves,
Shines in the light from the kitchen window.

5

First snow!
Delighted children coax their parents
Into sledding down the hill.

K. Nolan

A Volunteer Committee

Many of us in Wendell are interested in forming a volunteer group to help reduce our taxes and promote old-fashioned community spirit. There are many jobs in Town which can easily be done by us without hiring expensive professionals...carpentry and painting on the new fire/highway garage, landscaping, excess periodic paperwork, or baking a plate of cookies for board and commission members.

What we really need is a person to volunteer to take calls from people with time or skills to offer and keep a list to give to official bodies needing extra workers. These might be short-term projects or ongoing business.

"The process of using volunteers has gotten bogged down in the past because of the lack of such a coordinator," says Selectman Michael Idoine. "It could be done by an existing group, such as Ladies Aid, or Wendell Concerned Citizens, or an individual person."

PLEASE think about this opportunity to help our town and our overworked boards. Fill out the form and send to Susan DunLany, SR 555, Wendell 01279. I will be glad to help coordinate the volunteers once a needed phone contact steps forward.

Susan DunLany

VOLUNTEERS FOR WENDELL

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Skills _____

Time/day preference _____

Here's A Project

A volunteer project to complete the finishing of the fire station/highway garage is now underway.

Every Saturday for the next month or so, workers will be gathering to tape sheet rock, paint, exterior stain and do other work on the new building. Times will be posted along with the day's work at the Country Store. Or call Anne Diemand at 4-3806 or 4-6111. Please give a few hours (or bake some brownies) for the group.

Burnett Builders
544-3430
Wendell Ma.

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Erving, Massachusetts 01344
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